

## THE SECOND DAY.

10th November 1908.

The Assembly met at 11 A. M. on Tuesday, the 10th November.

The memoranda of subjects received from the members had been grouped under the heads of general and local subjects, and the former were first taken up.

### GENERAL SUBJECTS.

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1. *Question of the rates of water-cess ordered to be levied on the wet lands commanded by the Kodayar Project.*

#### I. Land Revenue, Survey and Settlement.

*Mr. T. M. Chilhambarathanu Pillai* (Member, Tovala Taluk) said that, as the assessment that was being paid by the ryots included the tax on the land and the water cess, the new cess of one rupee per acre ordered to be levied by G. O. No. 245/P. W., dated 6th April 1908, on all existing wet lands in the Tovala taluk should be reduced.

*Mr. T. N. Sivasankara Pillai* (Member, Eraniel Taluk), in supporting the previous speaker, said that the levy of an additional cess on the wet lands benefited by the Kodayar project was not justifiable and that the cess should at least be reduced, if not abolished altogether.

*Mr. T. Kumara Pillai* (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) said that, under para 3 of G. O. No. 2845/P. W., dated 6th April 1908, all registered dry (and garden) lands, which had been, or were to be, converted into wet, would be free of any irrigation cess for three years from 1084 and be subject to a cess of Rs. 4 per acre in 1087, Rs. 5 in 1088, Rs. 6 in 1089 and Rs. 7 per acre from 1090. In the case of the lands in the Kalkulam taluk, the ryots would not have the benefit of the water-supply from 1087. He therefore suggested that the dry and garden lands converted into wet should be made tax-free for three years from 1035. He also requested that, in the case of those lands, the existing dry tax and the land tax should be deducted from the cess of Rs. 7 fixed by Government.

*Mr. M. Madharan Tampi* (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) said that his complaint had reference to the uniform cess of one rupee per acre fixed by Government on all channel-fed wet lands, both in Nanjinad and Edavad. While the channel-fed wet lands of Nanjinad hitherto paid a cess of

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10 chs. per acre, those of Edanad were paying only 4 chs. per acre. Those rates had been fixed with due regard to the facilities of water-supply enjoyed by the ryots in Nanjinad and Edanad. In view of the differential treatment which existed originally, Mr. Madhavan Tampi said that it was hard that a uniform rate should now be fixed. He therefore requested that the decision of Government might be reconsidered and that a proportionate reduction of the cess might be ordered to be made so far as the channel-fed wet lands of Edanad were concerned. According to that method of calculation, the cess on the Edanad lands would come to only about 11 chs. per acre.

*Dewan's reply.*—The rates of irrigation cess prescribed in G. O. No. 2845/P. W., dated 6th April 1908, will *not* be revised. In prescribing those rates, His Highness' Government acted with the utmost consideration to the ryots of the four taluks benefited by the Kodayar works. Government are not prepared to go any further.

In regard to dry and garden lands, the holders of such lands are not now *bound* to convert them into wet. If, however, they do, they should pay the irrigation cess fixed by Government.

*Commutation of the grain tax on Kandukrishi lands into money and recognising the alienations of Kandukrishi lands.*

Mr. Sankaran Kochu Kunju Channar (Member, Kartigapalli Taluk) represented that the holders of Kandukrishi lands were at present put to great hardship in several ways by their having to pay the tax due on the lands in paddy. Taking the case of Aranaliga Nelpura, he said that about 48,000 paras of paddy was the income derived annually from the lands attached to that Nelpura, and that, after setting off the pounding charges, wastage, &c., about 18,000 paras of rice was the total quantity now obtained therefrom. If the supply of the rice be arranged on contract, and if from the total amount payable to the contractors be deducted the cost of establishment, annual maintenance, transport charges and other incidental expenses, the price per para of paddy would not work out to anything more than 11 chs., which was the commutation rate fixed by Government in the case of Sirkar lands. He therefore suggested that, in consideration of the manifold advantages which the concession, if granted, would confer on the ryots, Government might be pleased to commute the paddy tax on Kandukrishi lands into money at the rate of 11 chs. per para, or if that was not possible, at least at a rate slightly higher than 11 chs. Under the change, Government were not likely to lose much; on the other hand, it would be possible to recover the full tax due to Government on the lands.